



Flathead Conservation District
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Web site: www.flatheadcd.org

CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman Ronald Buentemeier called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. in the conference room.

Board members present: Ronald Buentemeier, Chairman; Pete Woll, Vice Chairman; Dean Sirucek, Supervisor; Mark Siderius, Supervisor; Verdell Jackson, Supervisor being a quorum of the Board.

Board members not in attendance: Camisha Sawtelle, Secretary/Treasurer; John Ellis, Supervisor. Absences are excused.

Also in attendance were: Lori Curtis, Associate Supervisor; Valerie Kurth and Ginger Kauffman, FCD staff; Sarah Bowman, Big Sky Watershed Corps & FCD; Angel Rosario, NRCS; Vincent Josik – NRCS Student Intern; Erica Gerber, Summit Prep School; Elena Evans, MACD; Samantha Tappenbeck, SWCDM; Rylan Jollymore; Don Murray; James Dillon, River Steward Program; Carter Eash, Kalispell Middle School; Caitlin Overland, Flathead County Attorney; Kim Michels; John Phelps, Haskill Basin Watershed Council; Mikel Siemens, Core Water Consulting; Marcel Quinn.

MINUTES

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to approve the minutes of the June 13, 2016 310-Stream Permit meeting as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

CORRESPONDENCE

1. Safety Recall regarding district vehicle
 2. Thank-you cards from college scholarships recipients Julian Kaptanian and Cassidy Grady.
 3. Cascade CD June newsletter *Conservation Chronicle*
 4. Whitefish Legacy newsletter *The Whitefish Trail*
 5. Notice: the 22nd Nonpoint Source Monitoring Workshop will be held August 23-25, Salt Lake City, Utah. Contact EPA, 303-312-6946.
 6. Valley County CD is co-hosting the *Low-Stress Livestock Handling* workshop. July 14-15, Glasgow Stockyards, Inc. Sales Barn. Contact Valley County CD 406-228-4321, Ext. 101.
 7. Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) June 15th issue of *The Montana Conservationist*
 8. Montana Watershed Coordination Council (MWCC) events:
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- National Water Quality Initiative teleconference call, 6/29.
MWCC review of 319 Program Project proposals, 8/18
2016 WAWG Projects Tour, 8/30 – 8/31
Contact Mark Ockey, DEQ, 406-444-5351
9. NASCA Small Acreage Conservation Program webinar, July 13. Contact Aaron Andrews 302-570-0258.

FINANCIAL

The following bills were reviewed:

1. Byte Savvy \$690.00
2. Centurylink \$254.74
3. MontanaSky Networks \$20.00
4. SWCDM \$4500.00

Mark Siderius made a motion “to approve the bills as presented.” Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No one was present to comment on items not on the agenda.

EDUCATION GRANT REQUESTS

Carter Eash, Kalispell Middle School 7th grade science teacher, and Erica Gerber, Summit Preparatory School science teacher and academic coordinator, both presented education grant requests to the board for fiscal year 2016/2017.

GRANT SPONSORSHIP REQUEST

John Phelps, Haskill Basin Watershed Council (HBWC), made a request to the board to sponsor a HB223 grant to secure funding for a full engineering investigation and design to replace the culvert on Haskill Basin Road. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion “to sponsor the 223 grant application on behalf of HBWC.” Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

2016/2017 COST-SHARE PROGRAM

Valerie Kurth reported two landowners have submitted cost-share applications for fiscal year 2016/2017. Details of each proposed project were reviewed with the Board.

Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion “to fund \$5000.00 for the Michels cost-share project.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Discussion held. Pete Woll made a motion “to fund \$1848.75 for the Jollymore cost-share project.” Mark Siderius seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



310's

STALOWY, FL2016007C/FL2016008C/FL2016009C, Bear Creek, complaints: Ronald Buentemeier read the following statement from Don McIntyre:

"The purpose of this agenda item is to update the Board supervisors and the parties to the violation complaints as to the status of where the Board is in the process. The Board will have a technical review conducted on the following two issues before proceeding with the complaints:

- A. *How does the 2009 proposed project (FL2009050, which was determined to not be a project at that time) compare to the actual unpermitted activity that has been undertaken?*
- B. *How does or did the unpermitted activity result in impact(s) to Bear Creek or Swan River?*

My understanding from the last meeting is that Ms. Quinn stated that the activities that were undertaken, which form the basis for the complaints, are essentially the same activities as proposed in FL2009050. I believe that the Board's consultant should do an on-site inspection. In this regard does Stalowy authorize the Board's consultant to enter upon the lands to do an on-site inspection?"

Ronald stated the board requested a technical review on 4/11/2016, and consultants are being contacted. Marcel Quinn requested the consultant performing the technical review also consider if Bear Creek is ephemeral or perennial.

Pete Woll made a motion "for staff to send Stalowy a letter requesting permission for the firm to do the analysis." Dean Sirucek seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Ronald noted that the district received an email today which included a letter from Marcel Quinn requesting the board dismiss the complaints, and a summary of field observations and stream gaging information from Mikel Siemens, Core Water Consulting. No action taken.

NEW BUSINESS

SOURCEBOOK PRINTING COSTS & PHASE V COSTS: Lori Curtis made a request to the board for \$8500 to complete the MSU contract for Phase V and cover costs associated with the workshop and sourcebook printing. Discussion held. Dean Sirucek made a motion "to fund the Sourcebook expenses in the amount of \$8500 from Watersheds Other funds." Pete Woll seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

WEED SPRAYING DISCUSSION: Pete Woll stated the district has an MOU with the Flathead County Weed Dept. for payment of weed spraying. Pete explained that at the last Weed Department meeting they found they have a liability in doing spraying. The current MOU will expire June 30th and will not be renewed. Discussion held.

BUDGET: The May End of Month report was reviewed with the board. Discussion held. Mark Siderius made a motion "to approve the May End of Month Budget report." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



REPORTS

NRCS REPORT: Angél Rosario, NRCS, reported:

EQUIP (Environmental Quality Incentive Program)

- Follow up visits and Practice Certifications.
- 2016 Funding – Two applications approved.

ACEP (Agricultural Conservation Easement Program)

- Education & Outreach Workshop moved to October 6
- Draft Management Plan completed on Big Meadows Easement

CSP (Conservation Stewardship Program)

- 3 Applications awaiting pre-approval

Other

- Meet Vincent Josik – NRCS Student Intern
- AmeriCorps River Steward Annual Review Meeting
- River to Lake Initiative meeting
- Building Lease renewal

WATERSHED RESTORATION PLAN (WRP) UPDATE: Sarah Bowman gave an update on the WRP, which included sections drafted, what is in progress, items that still need to be done, and options for potential outreach plans. Sarah also reported on meetings she has attended and other Big Sky Watershed Corp member activities. Discussion held.

RESOURCE CONSERVATIONIST REPORT: Valerie Kurth reported

Big Sky Watershed Corps

Sarah Bowman and I conducted our mid-year evaluations on May 31st. We also met with Bryan Wilson (BSWC Program Manager) and Elena Evans on June 10th for our BSWC site visit. Sarah continues to work on the watershed restoration plan while working on a variety of other tasks, including drafting the quarterly report for the Watershed Management Program grant.

Cost-Share Program

2015-16 Cycle: All of the contracts from 2015-16 have been completed and approved. The remaining three onsite visits were done in June.

2016-17 Cycle: Three applications were received for the 2016-17 cycle. I coordinated site visits for two of them. The third application is from a landowner who participated last year, and the onsite visit will be scheduled later this summer. I am developing potential program changes for how FCD operates forestry projects, which will affect the third application. With regard to possible changes, I have solicited advice and feedback from people involved with other similar programs, including Angel Rosario (NRCS), Jen McBride (Missoula CD), and Bill Swope and Carol Daly (Flathead Economic Policy Institute). In addition, with regard to one of the new weed control applications, I received assistance from Kima Caddell, Montana Department of Agriculture, on one of the weed control applications.



District Office and Outreach

1. FCD used two different advertisements to promote 310 permits in the month of June.
2. I continue to facilitate communication among DNRC, Don McIntyre, Caitlin Overland, and FCD in regard to the Staloway complaint. I am also procuring estimates for the technical review.
3. Rolling Rivers Trailer presentations – Pete Woll and I did a presentation for 10 4th graders at Creston school on May 25th and four presentations for 105 5th graders at Edgerton School on June 2nd. Vince Josik, the NRCS summer intern, assisted at Edgerton.
4. I attended the North Lincoln County restoration tour on June 1st. We visited a variety of past and future restoration projects, including projects on the Tobacco River, Sinclair Creek, and Therriault Creek.
5. All the computers in the office were upgraded to Windows 10 on June 14th.
6. I attended the River 2 Lake Initiative meeting on June 8th and the Flathead Basin Commission meeting on June 15th.

Haskill Basin Watershed Council

John Phelps and I met with representatives from Flathead County Roads and Bridges on June 8th to discuss the culvert on Haskill Basin Road. The HBWC met on June 14th.

Project Learning Tree workshop

I met with Holly McKenzie on June 2nd to discuss options for holding a Project Learning Tree curriculum workshop for teachers. We have tentatively scheduled a workshop for early elementary educators on October 1st, and we are working on the workshop logistics.

Sourcebook Curriculum Guide

I organized a meeting of the Community of Resource Educators Watershed Education Committee on June 13th to discuss the finalization and launch of the project. We anticipate receiving the final version of the Guide in late July and plan to hold a teachers' workshop in late October.

Training

I attended the Basic Survey Skills training course in Seeley Lake on June 4-5th. The training was a great opportunity to learn some of the fundamentals of streams surveying, including how to do stream cross-sections, longitudinal profiles, and pebble counts.

Trumbull Creek

Mark Siderius, Sarah Bowman, and I visited the project site on June 24th. We seeded the areas where slash was burned. In general, the creek was flowing very well. We met with the new landowners at the upstream end of the property and discussed the flooding they experienced this spring. They are building a fence for livestock, and we encouraged them to place it at the base of the levee and to apply for FCD Cost-Share funds for fencing materials.

Vacancy Update

I finalized the vacancy announcement and initiated outreach to many colleagues and organizations. So far, the vacancy has been posted on several websites: FCD, Montana Jobs, Conservation Jobs Board, Fisheries and Wildlife Jobs Board. In addition, it will appear in The Montana Conservationist and the Montana Watershed Coordination Council email



newsletters. An abbreviated version of the ad will appear in the Flathead Beacon this week, and the cost estimate for placing this ad in the Daily Interlake is approximately \$500. FCD has received over 20 applications already.

FLATHEAD BASIN COMMISSION (FBC) REPORT: Dean Sirucek reported a FBC meeting was held 6/15. Main topics included discussion of bi-annual report, 503(c) designation, EPA & CFAC processes, review of BNSF accident plans/safety program, AIS stations/monitoring and ACOE funding for the Columbia River Basin area.

FLATHEAD COUNTY PLANNING BOARD: Dean Sirucek reported 4 requests for zone changes went to the Commissioners with positive recommendations, and the Whitefish River Phase II subdivision was reviewed. Dean encouraged FCD Supervisors to attend the 7/13 meeting regarding Floodplain Regulations.

MACD REPORT: Elena Evans introduced Samantha Tappenbeck as the new Soil & Water Conservation Districts of Montana (SWCDM) Resource Specialist. Samantha reported on her background and the districts she will be working with. She will serve as a technical resource and be available to help coordinate local watershed groups.

Elena stated information regarding the Spring Board meeting will be sent out soon.

WHITEFISH CITY PLANNING BOARD: No report.

FLATHEAD RIVER COMMISSION (FRC): Verdell Jackson reported Christina Schroeder, ACOE, spoke with the FRC regarding options for area management plans.

HASKILL BASIN WATERSHED COUNCIL (HBWC): Valerie Kurth reported the last meeting included HBWC terms, members and representatives; Whitefish Face Fuels Reduction project, Forest Plan Revision, and culvert replacement on Haskill Basin Road. The next meeting is July 12.

CLARK FORK TASK FORCE: Verdell Jackson reported a tentative meeting is planned for July 28 in Missoula.



SOURCEBOOK CURRICULUM PROJECT: Lori Curtis reported:
Core Watershed Education Committee (WEC): Flathead Watershed Sourcebook Curriculum Development Project:
PHASE V ACTIVITIES STATUS

- 1) CORE WEC MEETING & LAUNCH PLANS
 - a. The team assembled on June 13th to discuss “moving forward” items.
 - b. **The following items need to get completed by the MSU team by the end of July:**
 - i. Include in the final Guide all written and verbal suggestions and corrections from reviewers, workshop attendees, and CORE WEC members from previous drafts\
 1. Add citing to all material taken from other resources
 2. Add citing to all photos and graphics
 3. Write and include an introduction to the lessons explaining 1) how to use the Guide, 2) level of difficulty of the lessons, 3) which lessons might be used together (themes) to accomplish topical learning goals, 4) estimates of how long each lesson might take to prepare for and to complete, 5) prepare a matrix that matches Guide curriculum lessons to MT standards, and 6) anything else you think needs to be in the Intro or included as part of an appendix
 4. Creating and delivering to the CORE WEC team the final materials including: 1) a revisable Word doc (or whatever program you created it in) or collection of documents making up the Guide so we may make future changes and updates, and 2) a print-ready Guide *per our specifications*
 - c. **The CORE team is raising money to fund the following MSU activities:**
 - i. 2500 to MSU for their work (\$1250 is currently being processed)
 - ii. Costs for travel (Paid to date)
 - d. **And to pay for the following CORE WEC activities:**
 - i. the cost of holding the next Educators’ Workshop
 - ii. the cost of printing the Guide
 - iii. the cost of having a web content developer make the guide into an online version for posting
 - iv. the cost, if any to have it posted on the Flathead CORE website, Flathead Watershed Sourcebook website, FCD website, and any other applicable sites
 - v. office expenses (paper, ink, mailing, etc.)
 - vi.]grant writing & administration fees
 - vii. In kind costs such as educator time, CORE WEC staff time
 - viii. printing the second edition of the Flathead Watershed Sourcebook



e. **Milestone Dates: (green = complete):**

Friday, May 6:	Educator inputs due to MSU
Saturday, May 14:	Teacher Workshop at Flathead Lake Biological Station
Late July:	Final draft completed by MSU
October 20/21:	MEA-MFT Educators' Conference – PIR Workshop in conjunction CORE WEC to prepare for and run workshop

2) **TITLE II**

- a. The CORE WEC group has decided that, although we appreciate the concept of using the Sourcebook Curriculum project for an MSU-proposed Title II grant, we are not ready or available to support such an effort, nor do we wish to have it done by MSU without our involvement. CORE WEC members will already be stretching our available time and resources to complete Phase V on top of our already full work schedules, and we are not comfortable taking on anything of that magnitude. The CORE WEC team communicated this to MSU.

MATTERS OF THE BOARD/STAFF

- **2016/2017 BUDGET MEETING** (Monday, July 18th, 9:00 AM)
- **NORTH FORK LANDOWNERS MEETINGS**

The next 310-meeting is scheduled for Monday, July 11, 2016, 7:00 P.M. in the conference room of the USDA building at 133 Interstate Lane, Kalispell, MT.

ADJOURNMENT

Pete Woll made a motion "to adjourn." Verdell Jackson seconded. Motion carried unanimously. As there was no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 P.M.

Submitted By:

Ginger Kauffman, Administrator

Minutes approved by FCD Board motion made on:

(Date) (Signature) (Title - Chairman, Vice-Chairman, etc.)

